

many captains of industry would return to high school, as Dave Thomas did in 1993, to earn a diploma forty-five years after leaving school to work full time. Fewer still would have the grace and humor to attend the prom. Dave Thomas lived a life of purpose and action. He was devoted to his family, committed to his business, and endlessly generous with his time and wealth.

HONORING THE METROPOLITAN HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GERALD NICELY ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AFTER THIRTY YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Gerald Nicely, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency (MDHA) in Nashville on the occasion of his retirement after more than thirty years of service to Metropolitan/Davidson County Tennessee Government.

I consider Mr. Nicely a longtime friend and have had the opportunity to work with him on housing issues for Tennesseans a number of times. One of the most important projects we worked on together was securing significant federal funding for the revitalization of the Vine Hill Homes through the HOPE VI funding effort. Additionally, our continued cooperation resulted in millions of federal housing dollars being allocated to Middle Tennessee for numerous programs and housing improvements.

His accomplishments include outstanding leadership overseeing key downtown projects such as construction of Adelphia Stadium, the new downtown library, the Country Music Hall of Fame, the convention center, Frist Center for the Visual Arts and Gaylord Entertainment Center Arena. He also directed renovations at the historic Ryman Auditorium and the revitalization of the Riverfront Park area. These marked improvements under Nicely's direction have resulted in the highest praise from his peers and residents of the community as well as awards on the local, state, and national levels.

A native of East Tennessee, Gerald Nicely received his bachelor and masters degrees in Economics from the University of Tennessee. The Metropolitan Planning Commission hired him as Staff Economist in 1968, and by 1979, he was promoted to Director of the Housing Development Division, beginning a twenty-two year run managing MDHA. His tenure as director was interrupted only once, in 1993–1994, when he was named Chief of Staff for then Nashville Mayor Phil Bredesen.

Nicely has always believed in giving back to the community through attendance and service on various boards and civic organizations. For instance, he currently serves as founding board member of the Nashville Housing Fund and the Nashville Homestead Corporation; as charter board member of the Frist Center for the Visual Arts and Affordable Housing of Nashville, Inc.; and on the board of the Metropolitan Action Commission. A past president of the Public Housing Authorities Directors Asso-

ciation, today he serves as trustee for that organization. Additionally, he served two terms on the board of the Tennessee Housing Development Agency (THDA).

Membership in civic organizations includes the Downtown Rotary Club of Nashville; the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce; the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials; the Tennessee Association of Housing and Redevelopment Authorities; Urban Land Institute; and Leadership Nashville Alumni Association.

As Director of MDHA, Nicely met the ongoing challenge of overseeing the public housing authority, as well as directing efforts to revitalize and renew urban areas, purchase land and design projects throughout the county. His fortitude, vision, and professionalism as an administrator have helped propel Nashville forward into the 21st Century.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my sincerest wishes for future success to Mr. Nicely and his family on this momentous occasion and I yield back the balance of my time.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL MICHAEL L. WARNER (RET)

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, few Americans dedicate the majority of their lives to the people of our country and the residents of their State. Even fewer place their own lives in harm's way to protect the values and freedoms we, as Americans, hold dear.

One such person is my friend, Colonel Mike Warner (Ret). Mike has had a distinguished career serving our country in the United States Army. Mike served in the U.S. Army for 27 years as an officer. During his distinguished career as an Active Army officer, Colonel Warner had numerous staff command assignments including assignments in Korea, Germany, and throughout the United States.

Colonel Warner is a highly decorated soldier, receiving two Legions of Merit, two Bronze Stars, a Purple Heart, three Meritorious Service Medals, and the Army Commendation Medal. Additionally, he has received campaign medals for service in Vietnam and overseas service ribbons for his tours of duty in Europe and Korea.

For his final assignment, Mike served as Commander of Fort Dix, in Burlington County, New Jersey. At Fort Dix, Mike was responsible for the 35,000 acre military installation and a \$125 million operating budget.

After retiring from Active Duty, Colonel Warner continued to serve the people of the State of New Jersey. Governor Christine Todd Whitman appointed Colonel Warner as the State's third Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs in March of 1994. As Deputy Commissioner, Mike was responsible for providing support for New Jersey's 650,000 veterans and their families, managing a \$55 million budget, the operation of three 300-bed nursing homes, and the Nation's largest State veterans cemetery.

Mike Warner is also a dedicated citizen, giving his free time to many charitable and civic organizations. He is a member of the Alumni Associations of Marquette University and the

Army War College, the Association of the U.S. Army and Retired Officers Association, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, the Vietnam Veterans of America, and is a lifetime member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart and the Disabled American Veterans. Locally, Mike is a member of the Burlington County Boy Scouts of America Executive Council, the Pemberton Rotary, and serves on the Board of Directors of the USO of Philadelphia.

Our country and communities need dedicated people like Colonel Mike Warner. He is a true American Patriot and it is my pleasure to call him friend.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DEE WEITZEL

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I rise today to recognize the life and contributions of DeeAnn "Dee" Frances Weitzel of Grand Junction, Colorado. Dee peacefully left us on a Friday evening, January 11, 2002. Dee was a popular member of the community and was often sought by many in the community for her listening ear, advice, and warm smile.

Over forty years ago, Dee moved to Grand Junction, Colorado where she quickly became an entrepreneur in the Western Slope community. Dee managed to start an employment agency, while raising a family that appreciated and valued the importance of hard work, honor, and perseverance. She raised her sons Scott, Kirk, Clay, and Tim to be respectful men who were determined to succeed in their pursuits. Dee's influence touched many lives outside of her immediate family and she was also a loving grandmother, wife, sister, and friend to many.

Dee's innovation in the business world led to her ownership of Warning Lites & Equipment, Inc. Although she was President and General Manager of her company, Dee and her husband Dewey could often be spotted along the highway working next to their employees and repairing the weather-beaten roads of the Western Slope. Dee was a respected employer and community benefactor who recognized the importance of providing for a community that had offered her a comfortable setting to raise a family and build successful businesses. Dee's business ventures brought jobs, dollars, and security to the community. Additionally, Dee made a number of charitable contributions in the area and donated her time and energy to many community events.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to DeeAnn Weitzel for the great strides she took in establishing herself as a valuable leader in the Grand Junction community. Her dedication to family, friends, work, and the community certainly deserves the recognition of this body of Congress. Although Dee has left us, her good-natured spirit lives on through the lives of those she touched. I would like to extend my regrets and deepest sympathies to Dee's family and friends during this difficult time.